IN THE CLAIMS:

Please AMEND the claims as follows:

2. (Amended) The connection management method of claim 1, wherein in the step (c), the other point-to-point connection is overlaid with respect to the [original] point-to-point connection originally established, and managed by the digital device which is connected to the other digital device.

3. (Amended) The connection management method of claim 2, wherein the other point-to-point connection, which is established in the step (c), is overlaid with respect to the original point-to-point connection by both of, or any one of the two digital devices, which are connected by the [original] originally-established point-to-point connection.

Please ADD the following claims:

--4. The connection management method of claim 1, further comprising:

(d) establishing, via the other digital device, yet another point-to-point connection between the digital devices originally being connected, when the result of the step (b) indicates that the digital device, which establishes the point-to-point connection in step (a), is not the other digital device to be connected by the point-to-point connection.

5. A connection management method for connecting a first digital device, which can be connected to a plurality of digital devices through a digital interface, to a second digital device, the connection management method comprising:

(a) detecting, by the first digital device, a first point-to-point connection being established with the first digital device, wherein the first point-to-point connection is established via a connection-establishing digital device;

(b) checking whether the connection-establishing digital device is the second digital device to be connected to the first digital device by the first point-to-point connection; and

(c) establishing, via the first digital device, a second point-to-point connection to the second digital device, when the result of the step (b) indicates that the connection-establishing digital device is not the second digital device to be connected to the first digital device by the first point-to-point connection.

6. The connection management method of claim 5, wherein in the step (c), the second point-to-point connection is overlaid with respect to the first point-to-point connection and managed by the first digital device.

7. The connection management method of claim 5, further comprising:

(d) checking, by the second digital device, whether the connection-establishing digital device is the digital device to be connected to the second digital device by the first point-to-point connection; and

(e) establishing, via the second digital device, a third point-to-point connection to the first digital device, when the result of the step (d) indicates that the connection-establishing digital device is not the digital device to be connected to the second digital device by the first point-to-point connection.

8. A connection management system for connecting digital devices to each other, comprising:

a digital interface bus;

a first digital device;

a second digital device; and

a third digital device;

wherein the first digital device is operable to establish and manage a first point-to-point connection, via the digital interface bus, between other digital devices; and

wherein the second digital device is operable to detect whether the first point-to-point connection is being established with the second digital device by the first digital device, and further operable to check whether the first digital device is to be connected to the second digital device by the first point-to-point connection, and further operable to establish a second point-to-point connection between the second digital device and the third digital device, when the first point-to-point connection is being established between the second digital device and the third digital device and the second digital device determines that the first digital device is not to be connected to the second digital device by the first point-to-point connection.